to tighten its vigil in the State and also to make it terrorist free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) According to information furnished by the State Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, fifteen Kashmiri workers were picked up on a tip off, from various sites of Natha Jhakri Project by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh police, during 15-20 May, 1994 for interrogation. After interrogation, it was found that six of them were having links with militants of Kashmiri and are presently in police custody.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The State Government has taken several steps to tackle the menace of terrorism in the State which include strengthening of the police force in Chamba District, establishment of Check posts at important locations, police verification of Kashmiri labour and tightening of security of important installations.

Amendment to Section 309 of Indian Penal Code

7754. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the overall implications of the recent Supreme Court's judgement granting right to commit suicide and what is the estimated number of attempted suicide cases anticipated to be dropped as a consequence thereof in various courts in the country; and

(b) whether an amendment to Section 309 of Indian Penal Code is proposed to be brought by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 26th April, 1994 delivered in P. Rathinam/Nagbhushan Patnaik Vs. Union of India and others has declared section 309 of the Indian Penal Code as violative of Article 21 of the Constitution of India. As a result, 'attempt to commit suicide' has ceased to be an offence under the Indian Penal Code. Incidentally, the Law Commission of India in its Fourty-Second Report had also recommended the repeal of Section 309. The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1978 which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 23rd November, 1978 sought, inter-alia, to delete this section from the Code. The Bill, however, lapsed due to dissolution of the Lok Sabha in 1979. Hence the Section could not be deleted.

Information regarding the number of cases that may have to be dropped as a result of the Supreme Court Judgement will be available with the State Governments. These cases may be different stages, like, those under investigation,, those under trial, those under appeal etc. Hence it is not practicable to give any estimate of the number of such cases.

Vacant Posts of DIG Rank Officers in Intelligence Bureau

7755. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number DIG rank posts which are lying vacant in the Intelligence Bureau as on date;

(b) whether in view of the fact that the efficiencey of the services is maintained in the interest of the country, Government would consider promotion of IPS Officers of 1979-1980 batches on adhoc basis;

(c) whether such an arrangement is possible till the drawing of a regular panel for promotion to those posts; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) Some posts of Deputy Directors, in the rank of DIG, are vacant in the Intelligence Bureau which occur from time to time on promotion or transfer of officers. Action is taken on on-going basis to fill up these vacant posts as early as possible. There is, however, no provision for promotion of IPS officers on adhoc basis.

Bringing Back Bombay Bomb Blast Case accused from Dubai

7756. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have a positive information that prime accused in the Bombay bomb blasts case Dawood Ibrahim is hiding in Dubai;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for the extradition of the accused; and

(c) if no extradition treaty exists between India and Dubai, what alternative channels Government are trying to bring back to India the prime accused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHIR RAJESH PILOT): (a to (c) Dawood Ibrahim has been based in Dubai for the last about 10 years. He and 43 other accused persons, who are absconding, have been declared proclaimed offenders. As a first step towards extradition of the absconders suspected to be abroad, Red Corner Alert notices have been issued by Interpol for their arrest and detention. Efforts are also being made through diplomatic channels for their arrest and deportation to India.

Equipping Kashmiri Militants by Pakistan ISI with Sophisticated Weapons

7757. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the 'Lokat Times' dated 19th May, 1994 on the eve of Prime Minister's visit to the USA recently, the Pakistani Inter-Services-Intelligence, had equipped Kashmiri militants with sophisticated refined and highly improvised weaponary to escalate violence and terrorism in the valley;

(b) if so, what is Government's information in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to such Pak action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the press report referred to in the Question. It is an established fact that Pak ISI has been actively involved in training, arming and funding militants and infiltrating them into Jammu to Kashmir to indulge in terrorist and subversive activities. Attempts are also being made regularly by Pakistani troops to push in trained militants into the State by resorting to firing etc. to provide cover. In the areas along the Line of Control in the bordering districts of Rajouri and Poonch, there have been frequent attempts at exfiltration/infiltration by the militants and related instances of rocket attacks on security forces. Such incidents and actual seizures indicate that attempts to smuggle/infiltrate sophisticated weapons including AK-series rifles, RPGs, UMGs, Motars, Rocket Launchers, Pistols/Revolvers, Grenades, Bombs, Time devices, detonators and Mines, besides explosive material, etc. continue unabated. In the incidents of rocket attacks in Rajouri and Poonch, some of the rockets have also been found